

IN THE CLAIMS

2. (Previously Presented) A device for the dewatering, stretching and drying of leather, similar flat materials and pieces thereof, having an interstice, sealed by a gasket and connected to a vacuum source for the leather piece and consisting of a support surface, above which lamellae are mounted with a drive mechanism to deploy said lamella outwards from the centre, and a contact pressure device consisting of a second lamella system fitted to a rigid, inextensible plate, connected to a stretching mechanism and mounted as a mirror image of the lower lamella system, whereby the lamellae can be deployed outwards by a circular movement around a fixed pin.
3. (Previously Presented) The device according to Claim 2 wherein the support surface is smooth with low friction, consists of a material with high thermal conductivity and is heated by thermal energy in the form of hot water, oil or another medium.
4. (Previously Presented) The device according to Claim 2 wherein the support surface has channels or perforations to drain the moisture from the leather.
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Previously Presented) The device according to Claim 2 wherein the rigid, inextensible plate possesses channels, nubs, perforations and the like for the drainage of moisture from the leather.
8. (Previously Presented) The device according to Claim 2 wherein the moveable lamellae present a sliding surface to the support surface and a surface able to move with the leather piece laid on it.

10. (Previously Presented) The device according to Claim 2 wherein the support surface is smooth with low friction, consists of a material with high thermal conductivity and is heated by thermal energy in the form of hot water, oil or another medium.
11. (Previously Presented) The device according to Claim 2 wherein the support surface has channels or perforations to drain the moisture from the leather.
12. (Previously Presented) The device according to Claim 3 wherein the support surface has channels or perforations to drain the moisture from the leather.
13. (Previously Presented) The device according to Claim 10 wherein the support surface has channels or perforations to drain the moisture from the leather.
14. (Cancelled)
15. (Cancelled)
16. (Cancelled)
17. (Cancelled)
18. (Cancelled)
19. (Previously Presented) The device according to Claim 2 wherein the moveable lamellae present a sliding surface to the support surface and a surface able to move with the leather piece laid on it.
20. (Previously Presented) The device according to Claim 2 wherein the drive mechanism for the deployment of the lamellae systems is of mechanical, hydraulic or pneumatic design.